

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
“California Rangeland Manager UPDATE, 2018”
Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR),
Division 1.5, Chapter 10, Article 4

AMEND:

§ 1651 California Rangeland Management Specialty

***** (c) A professional rangeland manager applies scientific principles to the art and science of managing rangelands and range. Rangelands are lands supporting grass, shrub, and savanna vegetation types. Range is land grazed by livestock. Obtaining a California Rangeland Manager license is a two-step process in which an applicant is first certified by the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management (“CalPac-SRM”), followed by issuance of a license by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (“Board”). CalPac-SRM seeks to promote and strengthen professional standards in all activities devoted to rangeland resources. The CalPac-SRM's professional certification program is approved by the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (“PFEC”) and is designed to evaluate the education and professional experience of rangeland managers. This program of certification is a service provided by CalPac-SRM for its members and others as a means for demonstrating the special expertise required to practice as a professional rangeland manager. Certification constitutes CalPac SRM's certification to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection that, to the best of its knowledge, an applicant meets minimum educational, experience, and ethical standards adopted by the CalPac-SRM for professional rangeland managers. A license may be granted by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection following certification of qualifications by the CalPac-SRM, successful completion of a prescribed written examination supervised by the Professional Foresters Examining Committee, adherence to the ethical requirements set out in applicable state law, and payment of state license renewal fees. The CRM Program was adopted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Certified Specialty pursuant to the Professional Foresters Law, Public Resources Code Sections

762 and 772. This program serves the unique needs for certification of professional rangeland managers in California.

(1) Purpose: Establish minimum standards for professional rangeland managers and provide a process for rangeland managers to demonstrate professional competency.

(2) Certification and Licensing: CalPac-SRM may certify the educational and experience qualifications of an applicant based on the requirements noted below and that have been approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Licenses may be issued for California Rangeland Manager (CRM) by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to those applicants who meet the educational and experience requirements (as certified by CalPac-SRM), and pass the written examination (also certified by CalPac-SRM).

(3) Requirements for Eligibility: Evidence of eligibility will be furnished by the applicant as a completed application form and pertinent supporting documents. CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel may, at its discretion, request additional supporting information.

(A) Education Required for CRM:

1. Completion of a course of study in a college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree.
2. A degree in range management or a degree in another related subject which included completion of coursework, including the following topics:
 - a. rangeland ecology and rangeland vegetation management;
 - b. rangeland plant physiology;
 - c. rangeland animal management;
 - d. rangeland policy and planning;
 - e. economics of sustainable rangeland productivity; and
 - f. rangeland measurements.

(B) Experience Required for CRM:

1. Five years (60 months full-time equivalent) of qualifying professional experience.

2. Qualifying experience begins after completion of minimum educational requirements.

3. All qualifying experience must be directly related to range and/or rangeland management and include demonstration of the application of rangeland management principles. Experience in a rangeland type found in California is required.

4. Qualifying experience is defined as the performance of activities demonstrating professional competence in the science, art, and practice of managing and using for human benefit the natural resources that occur on and in association with rangeland and range, and more particularly classified as:

a. Rangeland vegetation management, which includes the management of vegetation composition and productivity, animal habitat, re-vegetation, and the control of undesirable plants.

b. Rangeland animal management, which includes the management of wild and domestic herbivores, including development of grazing systems, and practices for managing and controlling livestock on range.

c. Rangeland ecology, which includes the protection of natural vegetation, ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation, and investigations into ecosystem and landscape processes.

d. Rangeland policy and planning, which includes the development of rangeland and range management plans, analysis and interpretation of laws and policies pertaining to rangeland and range management, and economics as it relates to the management of rangelands for sustainability, including productivity.

e. Rangeland measurements, which includes rangeland resource assessment and analysis of range condition.

5. Education towards a higher degree may be substituted for up to 2 years (24 months) of experience.

Other combinations of education and experience may, at the discretion of CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel, be accepted as equivalent to the requirements listed above.

(C) Professional References Required for CRM:

1. Three letters of reference by professional rangeland managers attesting to the applicant's qualifications. At least one letter must be from a currently licensed CRM.

(D) CRM Examination:

1. Each applicant for CRM shall be required to pass an examination developed and graded by CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel and approved by Professional Foresters Examining Committee, covering topics pertaining to the skills and knowledge required for certification.

(E) Ethical Requirements for CRM (shall apply to CRM certification through CalPac-SRM only):

1. All CRM applicants must pledge to conduct their activities in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the Society for Range Management, the 2002 revision of which is quoted below.

"Each member shall:

a. Foster an environment where all people are encouraged to participate in the Society and management and enjoyment of rangelands;

b. Use her/his knowledge, skills, and training when appropriate to find ways to harmonize people's needs, demands, and actions with the maintenance and enhancement of natural and managed rangeland ecosystems;

c. Promote competence in the field of range management by supporting high standards of education, employment, and performance;

d. Manage or perform services consistent with the highest standards of quality, integrity, and with respect for the rangeland plant and animal resources, the employer, and the public; soil, water, air;

e. Disseminate information to promote understanding of, and appreciation for, values of rangelands to those with a direct involvement in range management, and to the general public as well;

f. Offer professional advice only on those rangeland issues in which they are informed and qualified through professional training and experience;

g. In any communication, give full and proper credit to, and avoid misinterpretation of, the work, ideas, and achievements of others; and

h. Encourage the use of sound biological information in management decisions."

2. The CRM learns about new developments in rangeland science and management through participation in professional society and continuing education activities. CalPac-SRM will implement a policy on Continuing Education and recording of such activities in a separate document.

(4) CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel: CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel shall be composed of at least six licensed CRMs, chosen to represent a broad cross-section of employment, expertise, and interests. Members of CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel will be appointed to staggered three-year terms by the Board of Directors of CalPac-SRM with the express concurrence of the Professional Foresters Examining Committee representing the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel shall determine the eligibility of all applicants according to the standards adopted by the Board and shall have authority to confer and renew certification as professional rangeland managers. CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel's decisions and recommendations will be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel will have no disciplinary authority but may act in advisory roles to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in matters of alleged misconduct or other challenges to the certification and licensing process.

CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel shall establish procedures for its operation, including readily available application forms and instructions and the content and conduct of the CRM examination. CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel will respond within a reasonable time period to all formal inquiries, applications, and examinations.

(5) Schedule of Fees

(A) Professional Foresters Registration Program fees are as follows:

1. Pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 1605(b)(7), the 2-year CRM specialty license renewal fee is \$70.00 (paid to Professional Foresters Registration).

(B) CalPac-SRM California Rangeland Manager certification fees are as follows:

1. The initial fees for application (registration) shall be paid to CalPac-SRM.

2. Subsequent 2-year renewal fees shall be not less than fifty dollars (\$50) and not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per year, as determined by CalPac-SRM's Board of Directors, and shall be paid to CalPac-SRM).

3. Additional fees for issuance of duplicate licensing documents or penalties for failure to apply for a renewal may be charged by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

(C) CalPac-SRM fee schedules are subject to change by recommendation of the Certification Panel and approval by CalPac-SRM's Board of Directors. Professional Foresters Registration Program fee schedules are subject to statutory limits defined in the Professional Foresters Law, Public Resources Code Section 782, and may only be changed within these limits by regulatory action of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

(6) Appeals of Denial of Eligibility or Certification and CRM Examination Results:

(A) CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel determines the eligibility of individuals to take the CRM written examination according to the qualifications approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and provides and grades the examination; the Professional Foresters Examination Committee administers the examination, approves of the results, and authorizes licensing if the individual should subsequently apply.

(B) Appeals of denial of eligibility to take the examination shall be conducted in accordance with the Registration of Professional Foresters Rules, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 1626 and 1647.

(C) Appeals of the results of the California Rangeland Manager examination shall be conducted in accordance with the Registration of Professional Foresters Rules, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 1644 and 1647.

(7) Violations of Professional Standards: Violations of professional standards by a CRM may result in disciplinary actions pursuant to the provisions of the Professional Foresters Law, Public Resources Code Sections 775-779, and the Registration of Professional Foresters Rules, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 1612-1614. All complaints of such violations or other misconduct received by CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel will be referred to the Professional Foresters Examination Committee for action.